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## BOSTON MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

[In the Journal of May 18th, we gave a report of the proceedings at the annual meeting of this Association, relative to the conduct of one of its delinquent members. We are enabled to offer our readers, to-day, the sequel of the matter then agitated.]

*Boston, May 27th.*—Special meeting of the Association, at the Medical College, Mason Street. Dr. Jacob Bigelow in the chair. The Secretary (Dr. Storer) read the record of doings at the annual meeting, concluding with the vote referring the charges against John S. Bartlett, M.D. to the Standing Committee. Also the proceedings of that Committee at a meeting held May 18th, at the house of Dr. George Hayward, at which Dr. Ware was appointed a sub-committee to communicate with Dr. Bartlett, and a resolution, providing that if Dr. Bartlett did not make a proper apology, on, or before the present meeting of the Association, he be expelled.

*The Chairman* called for the report of the sub-committee of the Standing Committee.

*Dr. Geo. Hayward* remarked, that as the sub-committee (Dr. Ware) was not present, he would, to save trouble, call the attention of the meeting to the 21st by-law, which provides that the Association shall be composed of medical graduates of Harvard University, or Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Now as Dr. Bartlett had been expelled from the Massachusetts Medical Society, might not the Association simply vote that his connection be dissolved, without going through what would prove to be a more tedious and formal process—expulsion.

*Dr. Lewis* did not consider the course advised, to be applicable to Dr. Bartlett, who is a medical graduate of Harvard University, although expelled from the Medical Society.

*Dr. Hayward* was well aware of that fact; he did not intend to make a motion, but merely a suggestion, in order to save the Association from going over the whole ground.

*Dr. Ware* (who entered the room during the discussion), now stated that, in conformity with the vote of the Standing Committee, he made a written communication to Dr. Bartlett, and also had a personal interview with him; that the matter was fully discussed between them, but that Dr. B. manifested no disposition to meet the wishes, or to accede to the proposals, of the Committee.

*Dr. C. Walker* inquired whether the Association had the power to expel a member.

The Chairman observed that there was no provision to that effect in the by-laws, but that in former cases the Association had acted to impose penalties upon individuals who were considered to have transgressed the rules, and, of course, was undoubtedly competent to inflict the more extreme penalty of expulsion.

Dr. Osgood thought that as Dr. Bartlett was present, it would be proper to give him an opportunity to offer any remarks he might have to make, before the Association proceeded to act upon the report.

Dr. J. S. Bartlett. I have been detained by professional business in the vicinity, Mr. Chairman, and have but just entered the room. May I request the favor of hearing the Secretary read the report of the Committee.

Dr. Storer (the Secretary) again read the resolution offered by the Standing Committee.

Dr. J. S. Bartlett. As the report has not been acted upon, may I be indulged, sir, with the privilege of introducing a friend for the purpose of reporting my remarks. The gentleman I allude to is on my left, and being a medical student far advanced in his studies, is therefore perfectly competent to perform the service. If any other gentleman present who is a stenographer, will also be good enough to take notes and furnish me with a copy, I shall be exceedingly obliged to him.

Dr. J. B. Faint moved that the request be granted.

Dr. Ware asked if Dr. Bartlett meant the whole discussion, or only his own remarks.

Dr. Bartlett assured the Association that the gentleman would confine himself strictly to what he should utter.

The request was granted.

Dr. J. S. Bartlett. I would commence, Mr. Chairman, with expressing my sincere feelings of obligation to the Association generally, and in an especial manner to the gentleman deputed by the Standing Committee, for the very courteous manner of performing his duty, and for the extremely kind and frank demeanor manifested towards me in the private personal interview. Owing to the pressure of professional and other engagements, I am necessarily obliged to offer a wholly extemporaneous defence. I stated in conversation with the Committee, that I was very ready, as I am now, to make any apology consistent with the honor of a gentleman; and if I said aught offensive to the feelings of any individual, I was ready to explain or retract it. At the annual meeting I was not aware that this subject was to be brought up, having received nothing but the ordinary printed notice: you may well suppose, sir, that a charge so sudden and unexpected, may have given rise to some excitement of feeling: if, however, as I said before, my remarks were in any degree offensive, I am willing to make any apology consistent with the honor of a gentleman. But as to retracting the main principle, I cannot; and I shall look upon it as a duty, while I am a member of this Association, which will be probably only for a very few minutes, to defend myself. I owe this duty to myself, to my friends, and to my own conscience. Through a situation which I hold, and in consequence of the peculiar relation in which I stand to the public, my name has become extensively

known, not only in this city, sir, but throughout the United States; and not only in the United States, but in foreign countries. I had a letter from abroad the other day, sir, accompanied by a newspaper which spoke in very complimentary terms of my services. Now, sir, if I am expelled, what are my friends to think? If it goes abroad, as most assuredly it will, that I have been cast out of this Association, and out of the Medical Society, what are they to make of all this? I am under the absolute necessity, then, of showing that I am not alone in this business. I am also under the painful necessity of showing that others have violated the rules as well as I. In making these charges, I disclaim, before God, all vindictive or ill feeling—for I am influenced by none. I cannot, however, afford to have my name bruited abroad in so odious a light, while others go unscathed.

I shall commence, sir, with the following article, which appeared in the *Morning Post* of May 27th. And here I wish it to be distinctly understood, that I disclaim the authorship of the article in question, and not only this, but I also disclaim all knowledge of the author: I do not know who wrote it—the facts I do know, but beyond this I have no knowledge upon the subject. The article is as follows. [Dr. Bartlett commenced reading an article entitled “Surgery by Deputy,” for which we refer our readers to the paper in which it appeared. We have no wish to transfer it to our pages.]

*Dr. Odin* wished to interrupt the gentleman one moment, and call the attention of the Association to Art. vii. of the By-laws. “If any member becomes acquainted with the conduct of another member, which he considers as a breach of the rules and regulations of the Association, it shall be his duty to make the same known to the Standing Committee, who shall inquire into the case and decide upon the same, as they may think proper.”

*Dr. J. S. Bartlett.* Very well—how am I to proceed? I have half a dozen, twelve, or fifteen cases to bring forward, of gross violation of the rules by men of high rank in the profession, and I am stopped by this law: in fifteen minutes I shall cease to be a member, and I may not find another man who will dare to impeach these gentlemen. I appeal to the justice of the Association whether I may be publicly impeached and expelled, and others, equally culpable, go free. I ask nothing but justice. I wish you to hear and note these charges which I am prepared to substantiate.

*Dr. Ware* hoped the Association would not avail itself of this by-law. It will be recollected that charges were admitted against Dr. Bartlett without being referred to the Standing Committee, and we certainly should extend to him the same privilege.

*The Chair* considered Dr. Bartlett to be in order. He produces these charges as part of the exculpatory evidence in his own case, and he has an undoubted right to offer them in that relation.

*Dr. J. S. Bartlett.* I feel extremely obliged to the chairman for his decision. This matter is of importance, not only to myself, but to the profession as a body, and as this article was infringed the other day, as has just been stated, the precedent is sufficient to allow of its being

waived in my favor. I renew my thanks to the Chair and the Association, for the liberty granted me. [Dr. B. then proceeded with the reading.] I do not know, as I said before, the writer of this article, but I do know the facts. When called before the Massachusetts Medical Society on Wednesday, I said, if I am to be expelled, it must be in good company: I cannot go alone. If for stating demonstrable facts, facts which I can demonstrate; if for acting against the *esprit du corps* I am to be expelled, you must send others with me. With regard to the gentleman whose name I am about to mention, I am not urged by any ill feeling towards him. I feel, in common with the whole profession, the highest respect for his skill and attainments, and in my intercourse with him have received marked and courteous attention: but I must defend myself, and am therefore necessitated to impeach John Collins Warren, Ex-President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, for violating the rules of this Association, and for unprofessional, and, according to the laws of the land, fraudulent conduct. I must also bring forward another gentleman. And once more, I say before God and man, that I am free from all vindictive feeling. The Secretary of this Association will doubtless recollect that he attacked me, the other day, in rather unmeasured language, at least if the reporter was correct. He was prepared, I was not. He had time to revolve the matter in his own mind, while I was unguarded and unsuspecting.

The Secretary interrupted Dr. Bartlett, to state that he did not come prepared to accuse him, and although the words attributed to him by the reporter were not his, yet they were perhaps as proper and expressive as any that could be found.

Dr. Bartlett. I am called, nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, to perform a painful duty. I hold in my hand the report of a trial, *Miles Farmer vs. D. Humphreys Storer*, in which Dr. Storer appears to have acted, and I now charge him with having acted, in an unprofessional manner. I therefore request this Association to appoint a special committee to consider these charges. I also wish this committee to regard the following gentlemen: Dr. Samuel A. Shurtleff for having attached his name to a recommendation of a quack medicine called Pulmonary Balsam. Dr. Shurtleff is probably well known as having given the authority of his name to this nostrum, and thus has increased its circulation, and of course enhanced its sale. I would also recommend to the notice of the Association, or to the special committee, for violation of the same rule, the Physicians and Surgeons of the Massachusetts General Hospital, for prescribing and using empirical medicines, called "Swain's Panacea" and "Ward's Paste." I would likewise refer to their notice Dr. John Randall, for having consulted twice or thrice with Dr. Pronk, thus aiding and abetting a person not a member of this Association; also William Ingalls, M.D. a member of this Association, I believe, unless he has withdrawn, for repeatedly consulting with the same; Dr. J. B. Stebbins, of South Boston, and Dr. John Flint, are also liable to the same charge. I also expect to be prepared to prove that Dr. John C. Warren met in consultation an individual who never had a medical degree, and who gained notoriety and patronage in precisely the same way Williams did

—by appealing to the religious prejudices of the community. I shall, I trust, be enabled to present others of high rank. An important witness is now absent from town, but I anticipate additional evidence before the next meeting. In the mean time, I hope a special committee will be appointed to inquire into the conduct of those already mentioned. I have made these charges more in sorrow than in anger: if in any instance cases of mal-practice have come to my knowledge, I have not given them circulation. But I have acted in self-defence: if I am to be made the scape-goat of the congregation, if I am to have the Hebrew degree of *Azazel* appended to my name, I will not be alone—for the goat is a gregarious animal, Mr. Chairman. I am prepared, at any time, to substantiate the facts I have stated with regard to Williams. At the time I first became acquainted with him, I reprobated most decidedly his manner of introducing scriptural allusions and quotations from scripture, into a newspaper advertisement; it was offensive, to say the least, and almost enough to neutralize whatever else of good he may have done. But this did not deter me from stating the facts. I was not a little amused, the other day, Mr. Chairman, to hear a gentleman (Dr. Fisher) say, that Williams *persuaded* these people that they could see—when they really could not. Why, sir, if a man could persuade me to believe that I had a hundred thousand dollars in my pocket, and could bring other people to believe it too, I would quite as lief have the persuasion as the cash. Now if Williams could persuade blind people that they could see to pick up a pin, or count the letters in a book, as Dr. F. says, he must have had marvellous powers of persuasion. I do not know, sir, that it would be proper to bring another class of cases before this meeting. I mean cases of mal-practice; cases in which human life is involved. I will allude to but one; and as the gentleman to whom it relates is not present, I shall not mention his name. Some four months since, I was requested, one *afternoon*, to see a young woman who was said to be very ill: I proceeded to the house, and found the patient in bed and apparently in great distress in the abdominal region—complaining of great pain, and evidently in much agony. I asked what had been done. They replied that Dr. A. B. had been there and directed the application of a blister, and that she should take a tea-spoonful of cold water every half-hour. “Is your daughter a married woman?” said I. “Oh yes, Doctor, she is married to John Jarvis, the leader of the band at the Caravan.” I laid my hand upon the abdomen, and then said, “Well, ma’am, if you will be good enough to have my horse and chaise taken to the stable, I will wait a while.” I accordingly threw off my coat, and in the course of an hour we had a fine boy! Now, sir, I would respectfully recommend the Boylston Prize Committee to propose, for a subject, the practice of vesication in parturition. A few weeks since a man came to my office with a large scrotal tumor; I reduced the hernia very readily, and the patient then stated that a physician had proposed to perform the operation for hydrocele. He now wears a truss and gets along very comfortably. I might mention other cases, but I forbear. I suggest these merely to show, that in selecting me from the number of

those who have violated the rules, for what reason I know not, you have taken the wrong subject.

I shall now go on to prove that I have not violated the rules. "The *esprit du corps*," says your code, "is a principle of action, founded in human nature, and, when duly regulated, is both rational and laudable." Now I agree, as far as any man, that the *esprit du corps* is, when duly regulated, both rational and laudable. I respect the *esprit du corps* as much as any one: I have been a member of the profession, I may say, from boyhood; but I cannot see the *esprit du corps* made an engine of oppression. I must also differ from a majority of this Association as to its utility. The fee bill is certainly a matter of doubtful value. Why, sir, were I to receive one tenth part of what is due me from the practice which I—I was going to say, enjoy—but I should rather say, suffer—I should be the wealthiest man in this community. Your sixth article is bad, and it was on account of this that Dr. Samuel Danforth objected to the organization of the Association. For myself, I cannot see any reason for refusing to consult with a man, in other respects worthy, because he does not happen to be a member of this Association. "*Pal-mam qui meruit, ferat*"—if a man does good, he has a right to the reward, whether he writes M.D. after his name or not. If I had ankylosis of the knee-joint, and was in the hands of the Surgeons of the Massachusetts General Hospital for a long time without any benefit, and coming out, went to Hewett the bone-setter, and he cured me, would not he have the best title to the reward? But I have a higher duty to perform than any due the Massachusetts Medical Society; a duty to my own conscience. In doing this duty, I have stated what I believe to be true. If, twenty years hence, I should change my views, and should believe my course to be erroneous or improper, I shall readily recant what I have said, and shall endeavor to warn all young men from following the path which I have taken.

There is one other point to which I omitted to refer. I alluded to Dr. J. C. Warren, the other day, as having, by his encouragement of Sylvester Graham, set me an example in violating the by-laws of the Society. I was not aware, at that time, that the extracts I read came from his "Advice to Young Men." But if he uses such language—which a professional man could hardly talk with decency to an old midwife—if he uses such language to youths of sixteen or seventeen, what would he say to married women! If he says such things in the green tree, what must he say in the dry! The gentleman who corrected my error, expressed much pain at the very painful duty he was compelled to perform, and I sympathized sincerely with him under the very afflicting dispensation of Providence in making him the instrument of my indictment. Now if I, hardly arrived at years of discretion, as he has it, if I, a youth of twenty-four, have erred, how should those suffer who are my seniors in age and wisdom? Where little is given, little is expected. If I am to be beaten with many stripes, what is to be done to Dr. Warren for debauching the minds of maids and married women, by countenancing one of the greatest scoundrels that ever disgraced the borders of this Commonwealth? In conclusion, sir, I thank the Association for the indul-



gence granted me, and for their patient attention. The facts will be given to the public, they belong to the public, and upon them it will decide. I hope the Association will do a great deal of good ; and if I should hereafter see any error in what I have done, be assured it shall be confessed. If such is the wish of the meeting, I will withdraw.

*Dr. J. B. Flint* hoped, that if the gentleman supposed that his absence was either necessary or desirable, he would remain. He felt assured the Association did not wish it.

*The Chair* looked upon *Dr. Bartlett* upon the same ground as any other member of the Association.

*Dr. Hale* asked if the report was open to discussion. If so, he would move to amend it by substituting the following ; Voted, That *Dr. John S. Bartlett* having been expelled by the Massachusetts Medical Society, has ceased to be a member of this Association. He did this in order to prevent the necessity of going over the whole ground. It surely cannot improve the harmony of the profession to be continually prying into the private acts of its members. The facts in the case are the same, precisely, as were before the Medical Society, and we cannot reverse its decision. An expelled member is an irregular practitioner, and we have no right to consult with *Dr. Bartlett* any more than with *Williams*. By adopting this amendment, we do not pass upon the pretensions of the former. We receive the decision from the Massachusetts Medical Society, which by its by-laws declares that we have no right to hold counsel with any expelled Fellow. I think this is much the best course, especially as the whole turns not upon the truth of what he says. With regard to that, if it were all true, without considering the manner in which these charges have been made, he presents no one reason for varying the decision, we regarding it as settled by the Society, and as not coming in cognizance of this Association. I would, therefore, substitute this amendment, and in so doing the point I wish to express is, that we do not pass upon the matter ourselves because it has already been decided by the Massachusetts Medical Society, which has paramount authority. I wish also to cut short this manner of inquiring into the errors of individuals ; we have all made mistakes. I do not happen to be one of the number *Dr. Bartlett* has mentioned ; but if I were, it would make no difference. If any one has done wrong, or committed errors in matters of judgment, let us leave him to his own conscience, but let not the profession be kept in a state of constant excitement. Unless a man goes to the bed-side, he cannot inquire into the motives or the course of a brother practitioner in the treatment of a particular case, and it is this, therefore, which I deprecate and would check.

*Dr. Hayward* reminded the gentleman that it had already been suggested that it was not necessary to be a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society in order to become a member of this Association. In fact, there were several physicians on our list who were not Fellows, but were entitled to admission as graduates of Harvard University.

*Dr. Hale* would obviate any objection on that score by a slight alteration of the phraseology.

*Dr. John S. Bartlett.* The gentleman has stated one circumstance

which involves the very existence of this Association. I believe it to be legally an error to suppose, that because I have been expelled from the Society or this Association, you have the right to refuse consulting with me. I hold a degree of Doctor in Medicine from the Medical Faculty of Harvard University, under the supreme authority of the government of this Commonwealth, empowering me to practice, and guaranteeing to me, during my natural life, all the privileges which pertain to that degree. And now an Association of individuals gets up and annuls that right. I believe the gentleman is in error, and that in a court of justice you would be found to be on the wrong side, and proceedings might be sustained against you for conspiracy or for illegal combination; at least, so I am given to understand by high legal authority whom I have consulted on this point. I maintain, therefore, that I have a right to consult with any man: and if any member of this Association refuses to meet me, and puts his objection upon this ground, viz. my not being a member of this body, I shall conceive it my duty to bring before the legislature, at its next session, the question of the legality of the Boston Medical Association.

*Dr. Osgood* presumed that the members of the Association could read the by-laws for themselves. If we have no power to expel a member, we certainly can bind ourselves not to consult with, or aid and abet him. Every individual had the right of doing this, and he did not see why we could not do it as a body.

*Dr. J. B. Flint* remarked, that as to the remarks which had been made about the power of expulsion, he believed that the Association was fully competent to expel any member: it is an inherent right which belongs to all bodies, whether social or corporate—the right of self-protection, of self-preservation. Now with respect to the form, the amendment offered appears to be an evasion of a duty which this Association should perform. I am therefore of opinion that we should proceed to act at once upon the report, provided the grounds of the case are clearly understood. He wished some gentleman would state the grounds of these charges, whether they regarded Williams, the oculist, alone, or whether *Dr. Kearney's* name also came in. Upon this point the Association may not be fully informed; but being so, it should proceed to act.

*Dr. Hale* only wished to avoid the inconsistency of acting upon a subject which had already been decided by a higher authority. He considered the course he proposed, as equally solemn and firm, while at the same time it is rather more mild.

*The Secretary* was requested to read the resolution proposed by the Standing Committee.

*Dr. Ware* stated that the resolution just read was based upon the course which *Dr. Bartlett* has pursued in and out of the Association, both with regard to Williams and with regard to *Dr. Kearney*, and upon his general course of conduct. As to the mode of proceeding, I agree with the gentleman behind me (*Dr. Flint*). I think we should come to the decision by ourselves, not regarding the acts of any other body: that we should act as an independent and distinct Association. We in



fact are independent : we admit members who are not Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and but a very few years ago a large majority of this Association did not belong to the Society, the by-laws requiring at that time that a man should be in practice three years before he could be entitled to fellowship. This might possibly be the case again, and probably would be, if the Society should become unpopular. I should prefer, therefore, that we should act for ourselves, and not base our proceedings upon the acts of any other body.

*Dr. Wing* inquired if the 27th rule did not preclude any action upon this subject? [*Dr. W.* then read the rule, which provides that "no rule shall be altered, amended or repealed, nor any additional regulation adopted, without reference to a committee who shall report upon the same."]

*Dr. Hayward* replied that there was no intention of proposing any alteration or amendment to the by-laws. We intend simply to act upon the delinquency of one of our members. The case is a plain one ; we have heard the defence, and we all know the charges : the accused does not deny them—he admits the whole—puts them in an aggravated form, and instead of saying that he did not know our laws, and did not bind himself to adhere to them, admits that he *did* know them, and *did* bind himself to abide by them.

*Dr. Wing* still urged whether it would not be virtually enacting a new rule.

*The Chair* thought that the rule contemplated only the ordinary and general affairs of the Association. There was precedent, as had been before remarked, in favor of imposing penalties for infringement of the rules.

*Dr. McKean* regretted more and more that this subject had ever been agitated. He was willing, however, to help the Association out of the dilemma by referring to the 4th by-law, which gives the Standing Committee power to act upon all infringements of the regulations. Now the Committee have acted by presenting the resolution offered us, and leaving the ultimate decision to the Association at large.

*The Chair* considered the Association fully competent to decide the case : precedent was in its favor.

The yeas and nays were then taken upon the adoption of the resolution. The chair declared the vote to be affirmative ; this was doubted, and a count called for. The result was found to be, ayes 45, nays 5. *Dr. John S. Bartlett* was, therefore, expelled from the Boston Medical Association.

*Dr. Bartlett.* As I am no longer a member of this Association, I can of course have no right to be present. I would, however, before taking leave, beg to be allowed to express my sincere thanks to the meeting for the indulgence afforded me, and for the very patient and kind manner manifested towards me. I hope that the Association will do much good, and that you may all derive benefit and happiness from being united with it. You of course do not look upon its rules as I do ; but I trust that if hereafter your views may alter, you will be as ready

to render me that justice which, if the change should be on my part, I shall yield to you. I respectfully, therefore, bid you farewell.

Dr. Bartlett having withdrawn, the Secretary rose and moved that the charges made by Dr. Bartlett against certain members be referred to the Standing Committee. He felt ready and willing, nay, he most sincerely wished, to have his own conduct investigated. If the Association supposed that he would hold one of its offices, being at the same time conscious that he had been guilty of unprofessional acts, they did him much wrong. He shrunk from no scrutiny which they thought fit to institute. It had been said by an individual (before the meeting was opened) with something of a sneer, that we "dare not apply the same rigid discipline to the older and established members which we were about to inflict on this young man—that we were afraid to do it." Now, sir, I hope we shall not be afraid, but that the Committee will be instructed to look closely into the charges now presented. For myself, I can safely say that I bear no malice to Dr. Bartlett; that I was not influenced by the slightest personal feeling. I have said so twenty times, but I cannot make people understand me—they will not believe it, but it is not the less an absolute fact.

Dr. J. B. Flint hoped the Committee would be instructed. He looked upon one instance mentioned by Dr. Bartlett as very nearly, if not quite, parallel to that of Williams—viz. the case of Vanderburgh. He trusted, therefore, that it would be thoroughly sifted.

It was suggested that as some of the Standing Committee were involved by the charges, it might be well to appoint a Special Committee, which the Association voted to do—giving the power of nomination to the Chairman, by whom the following gentlemen were nominated and their nomination confirmed by the meeting.

DR. GEORGE HAYWARD,  
DR. C. T. HILDRETH,  
DR. M. GAY,  
DR. C. G. PUTNAM,  
DR. G. B. DOANE.

It was asked who was to prosecute the charges? Whether the Committee were to consider them as formally made, and to collect evidence in substantiation of them?

The Chair did not think that it was the duty of the Committee to rake sinks and kennels for proof. The accuser must of course bear that burden. He had made accusations, and he must prove them: the accused would not be obliged, of course, to furnish him with means; they had only to defend themselves, and the Committee, on the other hand, were only bound to determine the case upon the evidence produced.

A member questioned how the affair could be managed. The charges were made by Dr. Bartlett while a member of the Association; but now he is expelled, who is to take them up and father them?

Dr. O. W. Holmes looked upon Dr. Bartlett as having made the charges under improper circumstances, and at a time when he was incompetent to do it. He had already been arraigned—he was on trial. He is now convicted, and by a vote of the Association has been declar-

ed an unfit associate for its members. If not fit for common intercourse, he is certainly not a fit accuser of the most respectable men in the profession, and charges coming from such a source should not be received as from a man of good and unspotted reputation.

*Dr. Ware* hoped that the Association would not be backward in receiving the charges—that it would not avail itself of the questionable source or shape in which they came before it, in order to evade them. He hoped so the more sincerely, because his own conduct would probably require investigation in one instance, that of *Dr. Vanderburgh*, whom he had most certainly met in consultation; and he felt willing that if he put his justification upon the same grounds as *Dr. Bartlett* had done, the Association should be at liberty to impose the same penalty.

*Dr. Hale* said any member could ask an investigation, if he wished. He believed, however, that there was no resemblance between *Dr. Vanderburgh* and *Williams*—the former being a regular physician, established in a neighboring city, and received here upon the strength of that fact. He was not a resident among us; but while on a visit here, he saw, at the request of several families, some of their members who happened to be laboring under a disease upon which he had bestowed much attention; and on such occasions he was accompanied by the family physician.

*Dr. J. J. Fales* wished to explain the reasons which induced him to vote with the minority. It was not that he did not consider *Dr. Bartlett* deserving of expulsion, but because he believed the better course would have been to leave him to himself; to give him time for reflection. Perhaps his present conduct may be owing to some unaccustomed cause; it may be momentary pique, or possibly mental alienation. The reason, sir, why I thought that hereafter he might change his views, is this:—some two and a half years since, he was strongly in favor of this Association,\* and told some of my friends that I was no better than a quack, because I did not belong to it. Now he may think as differently two years hence as he did two years ago, and I thought the best way would be to give him a chance.

The meeting was then dissolved.

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#### FLAGELLATION IN CASES OF POISONING.

[A CORRESPONDENT—a professor in one of our medical schools—has directed our attention to the following case in the third volume of the *Medical Repository*, published in New York in 1800, which was communicated by *Dr. Valentine Seaman*, of that city. It will be perceived that the treatment was similar to that used in *Dr. Barratt's* case, published in No. 13 of the *Medical Journal*, although we have no doubt that the idea was original with *Dr. B.*

The following is the substance of the case referred to, which is published merely as an additional proof of the value of the remedy so successfully used by *Dr. Barratt*.]

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\* This must be a mistake on the part of *Dr. F.* He will recollect that *Dr. John S. Bartlett* could not have been a member of the Association at that time, as he was not resident in the city.

"The wife of ——— Head, in Water Street, had, about two hours before, swallowed 3j. Laudanum, and then lay in a deadly stupor, from which all the efforts of her friends could not awaken her. Attempts had been made to get some vinegar into her stomach, with little effect; nor did I [says Dr. S.] succeed much better in endeavoring to give a dose of White Vitriol. I then procured a small switch, and applied it pretty freely to her arms and shoulders, which were defended only by a thin covering. I also applied some strokes to her legs. In the course of a short time, indeed almost immediately upon the application of the remedy, she roused up, and begged me to desist. She continued for a time much confused, with involuntary turns of laughter. Two scruples of White Vitriol were then administered, followed, in about fifteen minutes, by 3ss. Ipecacuanha; notwithstanding which, and having tickled her throat repeatedly with an oiled feather, it was nearly an hour before she could be made to puke; however, finally she did puke, and by the assistance of frequent draughts of warm water, her stomach was pretty thoroughly evacuated. By the assistance of her friends she was kept awake; or, at least, slept but little at a time during the night, and this [next] morning appears entirely recovered."

Dated "7th month, 1799."

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BOSTON, JUNE 15, 1836.

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### MEDICAL STUDENTS.

Of the multitude of young gentlemen engaged in the study of medicine in the United States, there are doubtless some destined to rise to enviable distinction, whose beginning has been of the most unpromising character; and others, with every possible advantage, who will never be recognized as ornaments of the profession. That there is a natural tact manifested in certain individuals, for conducting the business of a general practitioner, cannot be questioned. One man will acquire reputation, with the desirable accompaniment of wealth, and through a long and active life maintain an elevated standing in society, and yet fall far below the sterling qualifications of a neighbor, who may, perhaps, have struggled with a series of disappointments and vexations, in attempting to gain his daily bread. It has been remarked, that those students who have pursued their studies under the greatest disadvantages, and acquired their knowledge at the expense of all those pleasures which fascinate, distract, and oftentimes corrupt the wealthier class of pupils, usually succeed best, and ultimately triumph over all the difficulties which opposed their progress in the pursuits of science. This proves nothing more, however, than that man, under certain circumstances, doubles his diligence and systematizes his time, and therefore overcomes, by steady perseverance, obstacles which, though apparently insurmountable, only required prudence and economy to subdue. But of all the sustaining powers which a medical student has at his requisition, there is nothing more important to his fu-

ture success, than a disciplined mind. Next, his habits—those every-day exhibitions which one makes of himself to the argus eyes of the world—are of immense consequence.

At the period when students usually commence the study of medicine, the mind is developed, and those leading traits of character on which their future respectability in life is to depend, show themselves prominently. It involves no spirit of prophecy to predict, with considerable certainty, even in the very beginning, the success with which an individual will pioneer himself into public favor and esteem ;—or to mark out the chart of his disappointments, when he swerves from those principles on which all degrees of personal happiness have a positive foundation.

In this age of excitement, medical students are quite as likely to be operated upon by the noxious influences of bad example, as any others : indeed, under certain circumstances, more so. Some of the collateral departments of medicine seem to expose them to peculiar temptations. Temperance, sobriety of deportment and uncompromising integrity, never failed of sustaining a man in any honorable vocation, in the estimation of those whose favor was worth possessing. Though all cannot become eminent, there is no possible apology for not being strictly upright and virtuous. All deviations from this plain and praiseworthy course are invariably attended with self-reproach, parental grief, and the marked displeasure of all who were disposed to be true friends.

A medical student in our cities is not required by any laws of good society to maintain a race-horse, to devote hours to the theatre which should be exclusively employed in study ; nor is he the less honorable for not wasting in the cup what would conduct him triumphantly through his pupilage. It were to be wished that dissipations of all kinds were frowned upon so severely by the faculties of medical institutions, that no one, known to be habitually intemperate, could be admitted to a degree.

These reflections were elicited, a little time since, in consequence of witnessing, in a barber's shop, the sickening spectacle of a medical student so thoroughly drunk, that it was even difficult for him to articulate his own name. This was not all,—he had fallen on the sharp edge of a granite door-step, and cut a fearful-looking gash under the margin of the lower jaw. Yet this man is called highly respectable, belongs to a fond and indulgent family—doomed, beyond a question, to deplore, hereafter, with aching hearts, the degradation of a child of many prayers. But in this instance there is scarcely a hope of reformation, because no one presumes to tell the gentleman of his faults, and college were never known to frown with terrible vengeance on this kind of folly in youth. One who attempted to prove that this same hopeless candidate for honor was guilty of no very reprehensible practice, though he admitted it was unfortunate, felt persuaded that getting intoxicated occasionally would not essentially interfere with any duties he might be called upon to perform. "Why," said he, "the habit is formed, and he must have it." Within a month, in one of his Bacchanalian orgies, an acquaintance took the liberty of taking six hundred dollars from his pockets, which would otherwise have been the spoil of thieves before he became sober. With this shameful vice, which he has not the decency to try to conceal, this same young man is looking forward with delight to his lawful emancipation from books—to do what ?—to practise medicine ! Ye destinies,—spare the patients of such a physician !

Hereafter, the saying that was once common in this country, that this and that man are excellent physicians or surgeons, as the case may be, if

called when they are sober, will not be heard. Those who indulge any expectations in the profession will be compelled, from necessity, if not by higher motives, to be gentlemen in conduct. A dissipated student ordinarily ends his career as wretchedly as those in humbler walks; while his moral guilt is vastly greater, from the circumstance that he knew the moral and physical danger, but disregarded the consequences of both.

As the members of the profession are multiplying with rapidity, no second-rate acquirements will suffice. People know readily how to discriminate the qualities most desirable in a physician. To real skill, must be superadded those sterling qualities of character which command the homage of such as value those who appear properly to respect themselves.

Earnestly desiring that these admonitory observations may fall under the eye of him who elicited them, and excite him to an effort to disenthral himself from the iron grasp of a fiend that devours and spares not, we cannot refrain from whispering to any others verging towards the same fearful precipice, to reflect, if but for a moment—“*honor and shame from no condition rise.*”

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#### MEDICAL CHARITIES.

SUCH is the spirit of the age, that all the various associations of the day, whether expressly philanthropic or not, are more or less distinguished by acts of benevolence towards those of their own household, when fortune frowns upon one who was once in better circumstances. Yet in all the Medical Societies whose transactions have reached us, we have no recollection of having noticed one single charitable act towards an honestly impoverished member. Now this, it must be admitted, not only appears badly to the world, but is in itself certainly wrong. On the death of an associate of any of the State Medical Societies, if a pennyless widow or homeless children are left, the treasurer should be authorized to remit the entire sum the deceased may have paid into the coffers. If, however, the connexion has not been of long standing, and consequently the amount of money so appropriated is small, then let such a donation be forwarded as shall give a decided character to the act. All these Societies have funds accumulating, to be quarrelled about some twenty years hence,—a moiety of which should annually be dispensed to infirm, impoverished physicians, their widows and children. It is to be hoped that an effort will be made, at no very remote period, to produce this important result.

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*Botanic Physicians. Supreme Court.*—Barent P. Staats vs. John Thomson.—This was an action brought by B. P. Staats, President of the Albany County Medical Society, against John Thomson, a Botanic Physician, for practising medicine contrary to the laws of this State (New York). Defendant produced a patent from the United States to his father for the exclusive right and use of botanic medicines, and he, as *assignee* of the patent, claimed a right under said patent to practise and prescribe for patients. The Justices' Court of the city of Albany decided that he, Thomson, had no right to practise medicine for fee or reward, unless he had a diploma from some regular incorporated medical school or society, and fined him the sum of \$25; from which decision Thomson appealed to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court affirmed the decision; consequently Botanic Physicians have no right to recover for services in the



State of New York, nor, it is believed, in any other. It is to be hoped that some one, possessing the energy of our friend Dr. Staats, will ascertain the rights and privileges of steam quacks to pepper mankind to death in the respectable old Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the head quarters of the originator of the lobelia cascading system.

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*Connecticut Medical Society.*—At the annual Convention of the Medical Society of Connecticut, held at New Haven, May 11, 1836, the following officers were elected for the present year.

THOMAS MINER, M.D. President.

SILAS FULLER, M.D. Vice President.

ELIJAH MIDDLEBROOK, Treasurer.

CHARLES HOOKER, M.D. Secretary.

Among other communications which were made, Dr. Bishop read a very able dissertation upon the Influence of Mind upon the Body, both in Health and Disease.

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*Treatment of Hemorrhoids.*—There is a practice prevalent in Dacca of removing Hemorrhoids, however bad, and from patients in the last state of debility. It is done by the application of corrosive substances, after which the Hemorrhoids protrude, (and, as far as I can understand, a part of the Rectum); another corrosive is applied, and at the end of from seven to nine days the whole mass is separated, after which emollient dressings are applied, and the patient gradually recovers. The pain is excruciating, until the separation, when immediate relief takes place. The practice is highly successful; only one fatal case in one hundred being known, but very disagreeable symptoms frequently follow, of insensibility of the lower extremities, or involuntary twitchings, which yield to time and treatment. Four of my servants have undergone the operation successfully, and the lower extremities are restored to their natural function—a fifth, who thought proper to salivate himself, with the vapors of cinnabar, to cure the twitchings, has lost the use of arms and legs—but the Hemorrhoids are cured.—*India Medical Journal.*

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*Metastasis of Disease from the Bowels to the Brain.*—A well-marked case of this description is related in the last number of the Western Medical Journal. It appears to have been occasioned by the administration of opium, which had previously been observed to produce unpleasant effects on the child which was the subject of the case. A state of deep coma followed the use of the opium, which was given for an intestinal irritation, and this state lasted for thirteen days, without being relieved by the usual remedies, when the child died. Sleep and coma came on in two hours after the opium was taken.

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*Massachusetts General Hospital.*—There were two operations at the hospital the week ending June 4th. The first was on Thursday, upon an individual who had been run over by the Rail-road cars. When first brought to the hospital, his appearance was as shocking as can well be imagined. He had fallen upon the track in such a way, that the cars passed over both legs, shattering the bones and lacerating the integuments

very extensively. Dr. Warren decided upon immediate amputation as the only chance of preserving his life. Both limbs were accordingly amputated at the lower third of the *os femoris*. The injury, however, was so extensive, that no reaction took place, and he expired a few hours after the operation.

The other was on Saturday, for the removal of a diseased testicle. Dr. Warren operated.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We are again obliged to defer the insertion of several communications. Dr. L. W. of Providence, R. I. who informs us that there have been thirty deaths by smallpox in that small city, within the last three months, will accept our thanks for the excellent paper he has sent to us. It is a most rational and philosophical article on the nature and treatment of that intolerable scourge, which, to the absolute disgrace of the United States, is continually extending its baneful ravages, hither and thither, notwithstanding the universal knowledge the people have of the prophylactic efficacy of vaccination.

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Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending June 11, 23. Males, 16—Females, 6.  
Of consumption, 4—scarlet fever, 2—influenza, 1—bowels, 1—rupture blood vessel, 1—lung fever, 2—croup, 1—spasms, 1—old age, 2—accidental, 1—intemperance, 1—cramp in stomach, 1—infantile, 2.

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## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### MEDICAL TUITION.

THE subscribers have recently made some additional arrangements for the instruction of medical students. A suitable room is provided, as heretofore, for the use of the pupils; the necessary books are supplied, and a systematic course of study is recommended. Personal instruction is given to each pupil in each of the several departments of medical knowledge. Every facility is provided for the cultivation of practical anatomy, which the present improved state of the law permits. This department will receive the constant attention of one of the subscribers, who will always give such aid and instruction as the pupils may need.

The pupils have free admission to the lectures on Anatomy, and on Surgery, in the Medical School of Harvard University, and to all the practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital; and generally they have opportunity to attend private surgical operations.

The terms are, \$100 per annum; to be paid in advance.

JOHN C. WARREN,  
GEORGE HAYWARD,  
ENOCH HALE,  
J. M. WARREN.

Boston, October, 1835.

June 15—eoptf

### LECTURES ON THE DISEASES OF THE EYE.

DR. JOHN JEFFRIES will deliver a course of lectures on the diseases of the Eye, at the rooms of the Eye Infirmary, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday of each week, at a quarter past three o'clock; to commence on Tuesday the 14th day of June. Application may be made at the rooms of the Infirmary during the attendance of the Surgeons, or at the house of Dr. Jeffries, No. 9 Franklin street.

June 1, 1836.

3t—June 8

### AN EXCELLENT STAND FOR A PHYSICIAN.

A PHYSICIAN, situated in a pleasantly located town, ten miles north of Boston, being about to leave the country, wishes to dispose of his stand and business. His stand consists of a convenient house, barn, &c. with seventeen acres of land. His business is extensive, and affords an excellent chance for a practitioner of experience. Applications to be made to the editor of this Journal (if by letter, post-paid), who will furnish the address of the advertiser. If the estate and business together should be an objection to the purchaser, they would be disposed of separately, to suit his convenience. Applications are requested to be made immediately, as the advertiser wishes to leave the place by August next.

May 18, 1836.

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